

November 15, 2019

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: USTelecom Ex Parte Notice, WC Docket No. 19-126, *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 13, 2019, Patrick Halley and I of USTelecom met with Preston Wise, Rural Broadband Advisor to Chairman Pai.

In the meeting USTelecom highlighted several issues that it raised in its Rural Digital Opportunity Fund comments and reply comments;¹ all discussion was consistent with those documents. Specifically, USTelecom discussed the need for the Commission to use the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund to:

- Invest today in terrestrial broadband to provide a foundation for the future of rural connectivity—wired and wireless;²
- Clearly define transition roles and responsibilities at the program's outset;³
- Use lessons learned from the CAF Phase II Auction to ensure reasonable accountability, while also ensuring the program is not bogged down with unnecessary requirements;⁴
- Reduce the risk of known inaccurate location data.⁵

USTelecom also handed out the attached document in support of its positions related to the positive externalities associated with investing in terrestrial broadband.⁶

¹ Comments of USTelecom—The Broadband Association, WC Docket No. 19-126 (filed Sep. 20, 2019) (USTelecom Comments); Reply Comments of USTelecom—The Broadband Association, WC Docket No. 19-126 (filed Oct. 21, 2019) (USTelecom Reply Comments).

² USTelecom Comments at 20-24; USTelecom Reply Comments at 2-12.

³ USTelecom Comments at 24-34; USTelecom Reply Comments at 12-18.

⁴ USTelecom Comments at 34-47; USTelecom Reply Comments at 18-25.

⁵ USTelecom Comments at 10-20; USTelecom Reply Comments at 25-29.

⁶ Coleman Bazelon, The Brattle Group, *Public Interest Benefits of Expanding Fiber Networks* (Oct. 2019) available at <https://www.ustelecom.org/research/public-interest-benefits-of-expanding-fiber-network/> (attached as Appendix A).

Ms. Marlene Dortch
November 15, 2019
Page 2

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

_____/s/____

Mike Saperstein
Vice President, Policy & Advocacy

cc: Preston Wise